

The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/3/76 - Gridiron Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN...

GRIDIRON DINNER

SATURDAY - APRIL 3, 1976

After Jimmy
Beth & John
should have
left 1 -

Pro. Leonard
Harrill
members of Broadway
Club
Distinguished guests

AS WE GATHER HERE TONIGHT IN COMPANY THAT IS

FAMILIAR -- AND CLOTHES THAT ARE NOT -- IT REALLY

FEELS GOOD TO BE IN THE GLOW OF THE GRIDIRON AGAIN.

AS ALWAYS IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL SHOW --

SPARKLING LYRICS, MEMORABLE MUSIC, A GREAT CAST ---

AND OF COURSE, THAT SENSATIONAL SOFT-SHOE DANCE NUMBER.

WHAT GRACE, WHAT DELICACY, WHAT CHARM -- AND

BETTY WASN'T BAD EITHER.

-2-

YOU KNOW, WHEN WE WENT TO CHINA -- AT
PARTIES -- AT STATE DINNERS -- EVERYBODY IS ALWAYS
COMPLIMENTING BETTY'S DANCING. I DON'T WANT TO
SOUND JEALOUS, BUT I CAN DANCE BETTER THAN HER
ANYTIME. I JUST DON'T LOOK GOOD IN TIGHTS.

THIS HAS REALLY BEEN A VERY EXCITING WEEK.

TUESDAY NIGHT BETTY AND I WATCHED THE ACADEMY AWARDS

AND DID YOU NOTICE HOW MUCH THE TITLES OF THOSE

MOVIES HAD IN COMMON WITH THE PRIMARIES?

DOG DAY AFTERNOON --- JAWS --- TAKE THE MONEY AND

RUN --- ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST. --- ALTHOUGH

I MUST ADMIT I DIDN'T REALIZE " ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S

NEST " WAS A REGULAR MOVIE. I THOUGHT IT WAS A

DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CAPITOL HILL.

WELL, AS JIMMY AND JOHN HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED,

THE PRIMARIES ARE REALLY NARROWING DOWN THE

CANDIDATES. THE DEMOCRATS ARE NOW DOWN TO

28 AND THE REPUBLICANS TO ONE AND A HALF.

Smile

GOVERNOR REAGAN DID STOP IN AT THE WHITE
HOUSE NOT TOO LONG AGO. HE WANTED TO TAKE A LOOK
AROUND. HE SAID HE COULDN'T STAY LONG. I SAID,
"YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT."

WE WENT TO THE BATHROOM TO WASH UP AND
I TOLD HIM TO BE SURE HE USED THE GUEST TOWELS.

LET ME CONGRATULATE GOVERNOR JIMMY CARTER

ON HIS FINE SPEECH. // THAT'S THE GOVERNOR OVER THERE.

IT'S EASY TO SEE WHERE HE SITS. NOW IF WE COULD

ONLY FIGURE OUT WHERE HE STANDS.

- 6 (a) -

INCIDENTALLY, TO DISPELL ANY DOUBTS ABOUT
THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS POSITION, GOVERNOR CARTER IS
NOW BEGINNING A MASSIVE DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, GOVERNOR CARTER HAS PUT
THE SPECIFIC, CONCRETE DETAILS OF ALL OF HIS PROGRAMS
TO DEAL WITH FOREIGN POLICY, DEFENSE, INTERNATIONAL
TRADE, THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT,
INFLATION, CRIME, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND THE FEDERAL
BUDGET --- INTO ONE ALL-ENCOMPASSING DIRECT MAIL PIECE.

(YOU HOLD UP POSTCARD)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST POSTCARDS YOU'VE
EVER READ.

I KEEP HEARING AND READING ABOUT HOW JIMMY

CARTER IS A PEANUT FARMER. NOW THE SYMBOL OF THE

REPUBLICAN PARTY IS AN ELEPHANT. *Oh* JIMMY, I DON'T

KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS --- BUT ELEPHANTS EAT PEANUTS!

JIMMY CARTER HAS A LOT GOING FOR HIM BUT I

HAPPEN TO KNOW THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IS HOPING AGAINST

HOPE I'LL BE REELECTED. IT'S MUCH EASIER CLEANING

PIPE ASHES THAN PEANUT SHELLS.

(One Religion)

(PHONE RINGS)

EXCUSE ME. I THINK THIS COULD BE IMPORTANT.

(PICK UP RECEIVER)

HELLO ----- HUBERT!

UH - HUH -----UH- HUH ----- UH - HUH -----

(PICK UP PIPE - LOAD PIPE)

UH - HUH.

(LIGHT PIPE - PICK UP RECEIVER)

UH - HUH ----- UH - HUH -----

GOODBYE, HUBERT ----- GOODBYE, HUBERT -----

GOODBYE, HUBERT.

(HOLD RECEIVER TO MIKE -- HANG UP)

THAT WAS HUBERT. HE JUST WANTED TO SAY HELLO.

THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT EVENING.

YOU KNOW, THE GRIDIRON DINNER IS ONE OF
SO MANY FINE OLD WASHINGTON TRADITIONS THAT
MAKE LIVING, / WORKING / AND SERVING HERE, A VERY
FULFILLING EXPERIENCE.

THE ESSENCE OF THE GRIDIRON IS SUMMED UP IN ITS
BELIEF THAT WE CAN SINGE BUT NOT BURN● THAT'S A
PRETTY GOOD IDEA FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AS WELL●

WE ARE REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS,
CONSERVATIVES, MODERATES, LIBERALS, OR A HOST OF
OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS -- BUT ABOVE ALL, WE ARE
AMERICANS. WE COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER IN THE
POLITICAL ARENAS SO THAT AMERICA HAS THE CHOICE OF,
AND THE BEST THINKING FROM, MANY DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIES
AND VIEWPOINTS.

AMERICA'S 200 YEARS OF GREATNESS HAVE PROVED
THE WORTH AND THE WISDOM OF THIS DIVERSITY●

HERE UNDER THE WARM GLOW OF THE GRIDIRON, YOU HAVE
DEMONSTRATED THE FUN THAT CAN SPRING FROM THIS DIVERSITY
AS WELL●

FREEDOM AND FUN. WHEN YOU COME
RIGHT DOWN TO IT, ONE REQUIRES THE OTHER. TONIGHT,
I SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF THE GRIDIRON FOR THEIR DEDICATION
TO BOTH AND FOR SHARING THIS WONDERFUL EVENING WITH
US ALL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT